

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

COUNTRY Turkey REPORT NO.
SUBJECT 1. Anti-Menderes Group Among DP Deputies DATE DISTR. 23 November 1955
in the Grand National Assembly
2. Anti-Greek Riots in Turkey NO. OF PAGES 3
DATE OF INFO. REQUIREMENT NO.
PLACE ACQUIRED REFERENCES
DATE ACQUIRED 4 October 1955

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE:

1. Anti-Menderes Group Among the Democratic Party (DP) Deputies in the Meclis (Grand National Assembly, GNA)

a. There exists at the present time a group among the DP deputies in the GNA which is strongly opposed to Prime Minister Adnan Menderes and which is working in whatever way it can for his ouster and a change in the present administration and control of the DP. This group currently numbers 173 deputies, all DP. Until recently there were five leaders of this group; however, a short time ago two additional individuals joined this leading cadre. The names of five of these seven leaders are:

- (1) Farsi Lutfi Karaosmanoglu - DP deputy from Manisa, former DP Minister of State
- (2) Fethi Celikbas - DP deputy from Burdur, former DP Minister of Economy and Commerce, Minister State Exploitation
- (3) Ekrem Hayri Ustundag - DP deputy from Izmir, former DP Minister of Public Health
- (4) Kasim Kufrevi - DP deputy from Agri
- (5) Feridun Ergin - former economics professor

Ergin and at least two or three of the others above have recently been expelled from the DP because of their views and activities opposing Menderes. Because these individuals are all deputies, however, the Government is unable to take any legal action against them.

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

STATE	EV	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC		OC	EV	X
-------	----	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	----	----	---

(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

REPORT

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

- 2 -

- b. [] expected this opposition group, and the above-named individuals in particular, to be very active and outspoken in the DP regional caucuses 1 to be held in the near future. [] considerable fireworks and "theatricals" to take place on the floor of the GNA when that body reconvenes at the end of October or the beginning of November; one of the principal subjects of this latter meeting will be the events of the night of 6-7 September 1955 - the riots in Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara.

2. Anti-Greek Riots in Turkey

- a. The riots were obviously well-planned and organized from their inception - so well planned and organized that it is impossible for them to have been spontaneous. The question thus arises as to who organized them. [] there are only two possibilities: the Communists or the Turkish Government. Because of the fact that Communist organization in Turkey at the present is so small in number and so comparatively weak - "comparatively" in the sense of being able to produce riots of this scale - the Communists are virtually ruled out as a real possibility or factor. This leaves the Government as the only other logical possibility. [] the Government, presumably a small group close to Menderes, wanted, planned and made preparations for demonstrations to be held. Word was passed to Police officials in cities involved that on such and such a night certain demonstrations were to be held, and the Police should look the other way. When the demonstrations actually came to pass, however, they quickly got out of control and assumed proportions far beyond what the planners had ever anticipated or desired. Presumably once they had thus mushroomed the various Police authorities did try to stop or control them, but by this time the situation was too far out of hand for anything to be done.
- b. [] whether it was actually possible for advance notice thus to have been given to Police authorities without any word leaking out up to the present time to the public or press, either domestic or foreign. [] this was entirely possible and feasible. Censorship under the current martial law is so tight that the foreign press is getting virtually no news out of Turkey; Time magazine, among others, has apparently recently commented to this effect. Four domestic newspapers have already been shut down, and the others do not dare print anything of this nature even if they should happen to stumble on it. Their copy is apparently censored either before or at the time of going to press and anything in the least unfavorable to the Government would cause them to be shut down immediately and make the editors or publishers subject to criminal prosecution under the Martial Law. As for the public, one is faced with two factors: (1) even if word had leaked out, people would be afraid to talk about it, and (2) the Turkish people, for centuries accustomed to the idea of subservience to and blind belief and faith in the constituted authority - be it religious or secular - have come to accept and for the most part accept even today the credo of complete righteousness and infallibility of this constituted authority - in this case the Government.

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

- 3 -

- c. [] timing as concerns international events was a significant factor in the planning of the riots. At about the time of the London British-Turkish-Greek conferences on Cyprus, Menderes had made a strong speech about the Cyprus issue, and the Turks had made their position very clear at the London conference. Menderes was not prepared openly to go further than this at that time, however, especially in view of the fact that the International Court (sic) was due to convene very shortly thereafter and more strongly worded Turkish statements or expressions would not look good. Menderes, however, did want in one way or another further to emphasize the Turkish position on the Cyprus issue; demonstrations were selected as the means to accomplish this.
- d. [] if the Government in fact did plan the demonstrations, why was it that following the incidents a number of high-level Government changes were made - specifically, the removal of a number of persons who had held positions which could be considered as positions of responsibility for the riots. [] these changes were not as significant as they might seem. The Vali (Governor) of Istanbul, on whose shoulders the principal onus of the riots there might be placed, was not removed. The removal of Kemal Aygün as Vali of Ankara and his appointment as Chief of the National Police, together with the concurrent change of former Chief of Police Ethem Yetkiner to Vali of Konya was effected with a dual purpose in mind: (1) as a sop to public opinion, since Yetkiner as Chief of Police at the time of the riots might normally have been expected to have known about the riots ahead of time if indeed they were planned, i.e., were a Communist trick, or, if he had not known about them at least have been able to stop them; and (2) since the riots did get considerably out of hand and attain a scale never anticipated, Menderes felt that some sort of real investigation was in order and Aygün, as a strong, dynamic man with considerable previous experience as Chief of the National Police, would be the best man for this. In addition, three generals were removed from their posts as a result of the riots, but this was more to placate public opinion than for any other reason. More significant was the fact that the Vali of Istanbul was not removed. [] that the Vali of Istanbul had been advised in advance of the fact that demonstrations would be held and had been instructed to look the other way when this happened. The Vali purportedly protested this idea strongly, pointing out that any such demonstrations would grow out of bounds and become uncontrollable, but he was overruled and the plan carried out.
- e. As for arrests in the aftermath of the riots, [] over 6,000 persons have been arrested in Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara to date. []
1. [] Comment: Probably the DP National Convention to be held in Ankara beginning on 15 October 1955.

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~